

Appl. No. : 10/624,878
Filed : July 21, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The listing of claims present each claim with its respective status shown in parentheses.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A liquid sample cup, comprising:

a rigid outer substantially annular shell defining an open top, a bottom, an inside and an outside;

a substantially annular inner liner disposed within the outer shell and having an open top, a bottom having a flow aperture therein, an inside and an outside, the inner liner defining a sample chamber therein, the cooperation of the inside of the outer shell and the outside of the inner liner defining a test chamber;

a seal cap configured to seal the inner liner open top; and

a plug configured to selectively fluidly seal the flow aperture in the inner liner, wherein the plug is capable of selectively sealing and unsealing the flow aperture while the seal cap is positioned so as to seal the inner liner open top; and

~~a seal cap configured to seal the outer shell open top.~~

Claim 2 (Original) The liquid sample cup of Claim 1, wherein the seal cap has an access hole formed therein.

Claim 3 (Original) The liquid sample cup of Claim 1, further comprising a screw-on cap configured to seal the open top of the outer shell.

Claim 4 (Original) The liquid sample cup of Claim 1, wherein the plug extends from the bottom of the outer shell inwardly such that it sealingly engages the flow aperture.

Claim 5 (Original) The liquid sample cup of Claim 4, wherein the plug is configured to be displaced from a sealing engagement by manual displacement.

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Claim 6 (Original) The liquid sample cup of Claim 4, wherein the plug is configured to be displaced from a sealing engagement by an interaction with a removable bottom cap.

Claim 7 (Original) The liquid sample cup of Claim 4, wherein the plug is configured to be displaced from a sealing engagement by an external tool.

Claim 8 (Original) The liquid sample cup of Claim 1, further comprising one or more data test strips located within the test chamber.

Claims 9-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (New) The liquid sample cup of Claim 1, wherein the plug is capable of selectively sealing and unsealing the flow aperture while the seal cap is off such that the inner liner open top is open.

Claim 20 (New) The liquid sample cup of Claim 6, wherein the seal cap has an access hole formed therein and the removable bottom cap is configured to engage the open top of the outer shell so as to fluidly seal the access hole.

Claim 21 (New) A liquid sample cup, comprising:

a rigid outer substantially annular shell defining an open top, a bottom, an inside and an outside;

a substantially annular inner liner disposed within the outer shell and having an open top, a bottom having a flow aperture therein, an inside and an outside, the inner liner defining a sample chamber therein, the cooperation of the inside of the outer shell and the outside of the inner liner defining a test chamber;

a plug configured to selectively fluidly seal the flow aperture in the inner liner, wherein the plug extends from the bottom of the outer shell inwardly such that it sealingly engages the flow aperture, and wherein the plug is configured to be displaced from a sealing engagement by an interaction with a removable bottom cap; and

a seal cap configured to seal the inner liner open top.

Claim 22 (New) A liquid sample cup, comprising:

a rigid outer substantially annular shell defining an open top, a bottom, an inside and an outside; .

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a substantially annular inner liner disposed within the outer shell and having an open top, a bottom having a flow aperture therein, an inside and an outside, the inner liner defining a sample chamber therein, the cooperation of the inside of the outer shell and the outside of the inner liner defining a test chamber;

a plug configured to selectively fluidly seal the flow aperture in the inner liner, wherein the plug extends from the bottom of the outer shell inwardly such that it sealingly engages the flow aperture, and wherein the plug is configured to be displaced from a sealing engagement by an external tool; and

a seal cap configured to seal the inner liner open top.

Claim 23 (New) A liquid sample cup comprising:

a generally annular outer shell having an outer surface;

a generally annular inner liner having an interior defining a sample chamber and carried by the outer shell and having a portion spaced inwardly therefrom such that a test chamber is formed between the outer shell and the inner liner;

a valve comprising a plug seat formed in the inner liner;

a plug formed on the bottom of the outer shell and configured to provide a fluid tight seal between the sample chamber and the test chamber when engaged with the plug seat; and

a bottom cap configured to engage the plug when engaged with a lower portion of the outer surface of the outer shell, wherein the bottom cap is further configured to selectively displace the plug from the plug seat while being disengaged from the outer shell, thereby allowing fluid communication between the sample chamber and the test chamber.

Claim 24 (New) The sample cup of Claim 23, wherein the plug is configured to re-engage the plug seat after the bottom cap has been disengaged from the outer shell, thereby fluidly resealing the valve.

Claim 25 (New) The sample cup of Claim 23, further comprising a data test strip located within the test chamber.

Claim 26 (New) The sample cup of Claim 23, wherein the bottom cap includes a projection configured to mate with a cooperating impression in the plug.

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Claim 27 (New) The sample cup of Claim 23, wherein the plug is configured to be displaced from the plug seat by manual actuation.

Claim 28 (New) The sample cup of Claim 23, wherein the plug is configured to be displaced from the plug seat by an external tool.

Claim 29 (New) A liquid sample cup comprising:

a generally annular outer shell;

a generally annular inner liner having an interior defining a sample chamber and carried by the outer shell and having a portion spaced inwardly therefrom such that a test chamber is formed between the outer shell and the inner liner, wherein the sample chamber is in selective fluid communication with the test chamber, wherein the inner liner incorporates a valve configured to allow selective communication between the interior of the inner liner and the cavity, wherein the valve comprises a plug seat formed in the inner liner;

a data test strip located within the test chamber;

a plug formed on the bottom of the outer shell and configured to provide a fluid tight seal between the sample chamber and the test chamber when engaged with the plug seat; and

a bottom cap configured to engage the plug and selectively displace the plug from the plug seat, thereby allowing fluid communication between the sample chamber and the test chamber, wherein the bottom cap is threadably engaged with the outer shell and is configured such that an unscrewing of the bottom cap from the outer shell displaces the plug from the plug seat.

Claim 30 (New) The liquid sample cup of Claim 29, wherein the bottom cap includes a projection configured to mate with a cooperating impression in the plug.

Claim 31 (New) The liquid sample cup of Claim 29, wherein the plug is configured to be displaced from the plug seat by an external tool.